

N. Charleston Air Monitoring Meeting – March 12, 2008

Attendees:

Wannetta Mallette, City of N. Charleston
Herb Fraser Rahim, LAMC
Sacoby Wilson, USC School of Public Health
Richelle Tolton, DHEC Region 7 Community Liaison
Robert Brown, DHEC, Air Laboratory
Christine Sanford-Coker, DHEC Region 7 EQC Director
Nancy Vinson, Coastal Conservation League
Alex Dadak, Coastal Conservation League
John Vena, USC School of Public Health
Erik Svendsen, USC/DHEC Environmental Epidemiologist
Susan Yates, DHEC Region 7, Air Program Manager
Rahim Karriem, Union Heights Neighborhood Association President
Scott Reynolds, DHEC, Air Laboratory
Nancy Whittle, DHEC, EQC Community Liaison

Nancy Whittle opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and turned the meeting over to Scott Reynolds to discuss steps forward for the community air monitoring. Scott stated that DHEC obtained five monitors from EPA to sample for particulate matter 2.5. He brought a sampler so that participants could see first hand what would be placed in the community. He reported that he has ordered two continuous monitors that can measure both PM 10 microns or less and PM 2.5 – these may potentially be placed in the community as well. He explained that his office needs to do precision checks on the five monitors before placing them in the community – this will take about a month.

He reported that the primary objective of placing the monitors in the community was to do a saturation study to determine the best location for the long-term monitor supported by the Ports Authority. He stated that we would do approximately 2 months of sampling. He handed out some information on location criteria and asked the group for their thoughts. Participants raised the issue of placing a sampler close to the interstate and in the communities that would be most impacted by the port expansion. We discussed the neighborhoods that would be included in this study:

- Rosemont
- Silver Hill
- Four Mile
- Five Mile
- Union Heights
- Howard Heights
- Chicora-Cherokee
- Accabee
- Winslow

There was discussion about how to get input from the communities on where to locate the community monitors. Mr. Reynolds stated that they are small and need to be placed in a secure location because they can easily be stolen. It was decided that DHEC would attempt to meet with the neighborhood associations to let them know what we want to do and get input. LAMC, which includes Union Heights, Chicora-Cherokee, Accabee and Winslow meet on 3/25/08 – DHEC will have staff at that meeting. Nancy Button from Rosemont was not present tonight, so Nancy Whittle will contact her regarding their next meeting – will ask that she include Silver Hill, Four Mile, and Five Mile. The group also thought that it would be helpful to hold a larger community meeting so all residents would have an opportunity to be part of this process. April 21, 2008 was set as a tentative date for this larger meeting.

Dr. Erik Svendsen and Dr. Sacoby Wilson of USC School of Public Health then discussed their effort at assessing the health of the population in the impacted communities.

Dr. Wilson asked for letters of support for and EPA CARE grant that the City of N. Charleston is applying for – this would provide funding for more long-term community air monitoring.